

September 3, 1957 A.O. 830

OFFICIAL ORDER No. 6
Series 1956-1957

TO THE GRAND COMMANDERY OFFICERS,
COMMANDERS AND RECORDERS

Re: TACTICS

Sir Knights:

At a meeting of the TACTICS COMMITTEE of this Grand Commandery K.T. of Massachusetts and Rhode Island held in Grand Commandery Headquarters on Monday, June 24th, the following Rules and Changes were made in the TACTICS:

1. Page 20. SWORD INTERVALS. There is no formal command for Knights to take Sword Intervals. They are to be instructed beforehand to do so. The S.W. & J.W. are to wait in dressing until they do so.
2. Page 23. GRIP. The Grip is given with crossed arms. There is no neutral position.
3. Page 27. TRIANGLE FORMATION (OPENING). The last command of this section "C: (commands) Sir Knights, Be Seated." is to be deleted. Sidelines remain standing until bottom of page 29 - "C: (commands) Officers, Return, Swords: Sir Knights, Be Seated."
4. Page 28. S.W. & J.W. "At the command, "Reduce Triangle" the S.W. will take position at right of 1st division, and J.W. at left of 3rd division" and in line with their divisions. They will lead their divisions in executing the commands that follow.
5. Page 28. WARDER. The Warder will march alongside of the State Flag Bearer and in the rear of the Sword Bearer in reducing Triangle because a full 2nd division is being moved.
6. Page 29. S.W. & J.W. (command) Return, Swords; Dismissed. "The commanders will resume their stations and stand at "Attention" with swords drawn. AT ONCE ON COMMANDING "DISMISSED."
7. Page 32. STANDARD BEARER. The Standard Bearer will come to an Officer's Present when the Captain General commands "PRESENT SWORDS".
8. Page 62. WARDER. The Warder will march in the rear of St. F.B. as directed because only one half of 2nd Division is being moved.
9. Page 63. CAPTAIN GENERAL. "The C.G. does NOT wait for the Cp. of Gd. to get into line and at Order Swords before commanding, "Commandery - Present Swords!"

10. Page 65. OFFICERS PARADE REST. The Phrase "with left foot advanced" is to be deleted. The Officers will do Parade Rest the same as their men by moving right foot to the rear.
11. Page 67. OFFICERS LINE. Tactics corrected to read as follows: "When the Inspecting Officer reaches the right of the first division, the Cp. Gd., S.W., Sw.B., Warder, & J.W., will about face (dress on Cp. Gd.), and execute "Order Swords" (together) when the Staff has passed the Captain of the Guard.
12. Page 68. WARDER. The Warder will form and march as directed because a full 2nd division is being moved.
13. Page 70. WARDER. The Warder will march alongside of the State Flag Bearer and in the rear of the Sword Bearer in Dismissal of the Lines because a full 2nd division is being moved.
14. Page 83. GRIP. The Grip is given with Crossed Arms - There is no neutral position. The Arms will only be moved when the word is passed.
15. Page 85. COLOR GUARDS. The Tactics will not be changed at this time but the Color Guards may about face and Salute the Colors with the Color Bearer.
16. Page 102. (95). PORT SWORDS. To execute Port Swords as explained on page 102 it is necessary to read carefully page 95 as follows:- "The preparatory command, such as forward, indicates the movement that is to be executed. The command of EXECUTION, such as March, Halt, or Swords, causes the execution. Do not move Left Hand until command of Execution.
17. Page 104. GUARD. The phrase "the thumb extended along the back of grip" is deleted. The paragraph now reads as follows:
GUARD. Turn the left foot square to the left, turning on the left heel; at the same time advance the right foot promptly about 18 inches, the weight of the body principally on the left leg; raise the right hand in front of and a little higher than the right hip; the blade diagonally across the body, edge to the front, the point advanced slightly and extending in front of and covering the left shoulder. Left hand remains at side and steadies scabbard. 1. Carry,
2. Swords; resume the position of carry swords.
18. Page 104. CUTS OR PARRIES. Tactics changed to read as follows:
In giving the cuts, first take the position of guard; keep the feet at right angles and look into the eyes of the Knight opposite, who should be two paces distant. The flats of the blades should be crossed about 10 inches from the points. The cuts should be given with spirit, the swords clashing sharply. The edge is away from the body at Carry Swords and the back is against the shoulder at Carry Swords.

CUTS OR PARRIES (Continued)

(ONE) Raise and extend the arm, turning the hand IN TIERCE (back of hand up), the wrist as high as the head, the edge of the sword UP, sword pointed to the left, and engage the sword of the Knight opposite on the left side.

(TWO) Disengage the sword by a circular movement left to right, the edge of the sword DOWN, the hand on a line with the head, sword pointed to the right, and engage the sword of the Knight opposite on the left side, crossing the blades as before.

(THREE) Disengage the sword by a circular movement to the left and downward, engage the sword of the Knight opposite on the left side, the hand IN TIERCE, the edge up, sword pointed to the left.

(FOUR) Come directly to the position of PARRY (first cut).

1. CARRY, 2. SWORDS. Resume the position of Carry Swords.

19. Ritual COMMANDER & PRELATE. The sticker at the bottom of page
Page 110. which reads as follows: "C. turns toward P. for the purpose of addressing him. When addressed P. should bow and this bow should be acknowledged in kind by the C. The K's uncover when the P. begins; those seated remaining so; and will recover at the close of reading. This at each reading." should be adhered to at each reading. This is not a Military movement by the Commander.
20. Ritual (and for all Officers in Full Form Opening)
Page 127. PENAL SIGN. In concluding the Penal Sign the Fingers should be elevated straight up. They should NOT be dropped over the shoulder with the Fingers pointed to the rear.

It is my ORDER that this communication be read at the next Conclave following its receipt and spread upon the records. These Rules and Changes to become effective immediately.

Given under my hand and the Seal of this Grand Commandery on this third day of September 1957.

Courteously yours,

THOMAS A. BOOTH
Grand Commander

ATTEST:
George A. Weeks
Grand Recorder

TACTICS COMMITTEE
R.E. Sir Thomas A. Booth, Chairman
R.E. Sir Frederic Kennedy
R.E. Sir Harold S. Crocker
R.E. Sir George A. Weeks
E. Sir William A. Odell

